Changes Ahead for Remedial Math

BY AMANDA FERRANTE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Regular program evaluation, combined with a disappointing pass rate and the college's low graduation rates, has prompted the college administration to make some changes in Developmental Math Courses, beginning next semester.

Academic Vice President Dr. Gary G. Porter, who's been with the college for more than 15 years, said it was time for a change, especially in the Developmental Math program.

Mr. Porter agreed, explaining, “It's all about students’ academic triumphs. "Creating success for students in this area is one of my top priorities," Dr. Porter said. "As a college, we need to make changes so that students feel more important than this.”

Developmental education is in existence to serve diverse populations with diverse needs like those at Bergen Community College. BCC prides itself as the leading community college in the state, but the BCC Student Information System reports a 48 percent pass rate in remedial math, which does not coincide with the visions of the administration for academic success, said Dr. Porter.

In addition, passing Developmental Math may be construed as a grossly inadequate college's 13 percent graduation rate.

“When I see a neighboring college with a pass rate in math, and with a higher graduation rate than we have, it suggests that one of the factors affecting our graduation rate is developmental math,” he said.

The pass rate has declined over time; in 2002 it was at 58 percent, and it has been steadily decreasing since then (see chart).

The most visible change will be reduced class sizes. Beginning in the fall 2008 semester, Developmental Math classes will be limited to 18 students.

“We believe that class size is one of a number of strategies that needs to be implemented to reduce our pass rate for students," Dr. Porter said. Another change can be seen in the spring '08 course catalog that

Remedial Success Rates

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Source: IEA & BCC, Student Information Systems.

Music picks: Wyclef Jean, Busta Rhymes

Faculty Buyout Means Goodbye to Profs

BY JILL BARTLETT
MANAGING EDITOR

Full-time faculty members who have been with the college for more than 10 years, as of June 1, 2008 have an important decision to make between now and Feb. 1, 2008. Should I stay or should I go?

Bergen Community College is in the process of offering a "buyout," which would cost about a one-time, lump sum payment to longtime faculty who agree to retire at the end of the 2007-08 school year.

Though neither the college administration nor the Bergen Community College Faculty Association, the union that represents the faculty, disclosed exact details, they did say that professors who have about $2 million earmarked for the program could conceivably cover some 25 professors.

Typically, the idea behind a buyout is to eliminate costly, long-time employees who have higher salaries than newcomers. The buyout is what "colleges do routinely for economic benefit to both the college and the faculty, as they are able to derive more monetary value from those unused sick time," Dr. Redmond said.

"Instead of being passive, we can make changes in testing and also in class size, and it's all about students' academic triumphs," Dr. Porter said.

The buyout centers on sick pay. Typically, the idea behind a buyout is to make some changes in Developmental Math, or in Developmental Math courses.

"We would like to hire more full-time faculty. This program could conceivably make between now and Feb. 1, 2008 a total of $92,500. It is a relatively small number, and it's all about students’ academic triumphs," Dr. Porter said.

Dr. Redmond stated, “If you have any questions, I would love to have one-on-one conversations with you.”

"Many four year schools had an interfaith room but also had a chaplain on campus. Jersey City [State] College had an interfaith room and they had a chaplain even though they are a state college," Ms. Haedo wrote in the email.

Noting this a member of the Turkish Club who devoutly observe Islam practices sought clean spaces to pray. They realized the need for a room for the specific purpose around two years ago when Dr. Judith Winn was Bergen's president.

The Muslim student population currently accounts for about two percent of the general population. The Muslim Student Association itself has about 20 active members, according to Christine Haedo, the club's advisor.

Originally, the club was given a half a room in the student center. Ms. Haedo divided the room with a curtain so that Muslim students could have privacy. During the semesters that followed, the club's numbers fell and their half of the room was given to another organization. Devout students were told to ask Public Safety to open up empty rooms. Some prayed in corners of the library, while others, prayed on bathroom floors.

Meditation Room Still Not Permanent but Remains Open

BY JILL BARTLETT
MANAGING EDITOR

After several requests from Bergen Community College's Muslim Student Association, a “meditation room” is temporarily available to all members of the college community.

The room, located L-230 has windows facing both East and South, allowing anyone who uses it for Islamic prayer to face Mecca in the East.

It is a modest room, containing a desk, a chair, an old cabinet, and plenty of peace and quiet, but apparently, it was quite a while in coming.

Student members of the Muslim Club who devoutly observe Islam practices sought clean spaces to pray. They realized the need for a room for the specific purpose around two years ago when Dr. Judith Winn was Bergen's president.

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Students Learn About Relationship Abuse

BY PAUL IBANEZ
STAFF WRITER

Does your partner check your cell phone calls? Do you barely speak to or see your friends? Do you have to say where you are going to? When you are out, does your partner follow you to make sure you are safe? That is relationship abuse.

If you answered “Yes” to any of the above, you might be in an unhealthy relationship. According to Millard, a counselor of the Alternatives to Domestic Violence, Bergen County Department of Human Services, many teenagers, especially those in Bergen County, have suffered from relationship abuse.

Millard was at Bergen on Nov. 13 to speak at a seminar entitled “A Healthy Relationship,” one of Bergen’s Personal Enrichment seminars. “A partner is limiting college life; doesn’t want you to participate in activities; wants to isolate you, which can become problematic and can escalate,” Millard said.

In 2005, an estimated 76,000 domestic violence incidents were reported in New Jersey. Seventy-nine percent were female victims, according to Millard. Domestic violence is very common among teenagers and young adults.

“How do you stop it?” Millard asks.

Most teenagers don’t recognize when domestic violence is happening or when it is occurring. When they do, they don’t always see it. Sometimes, they also don’t have the access to counseling services.

However, there are certain signs to recognize in a violent relationship between teenagers. One sign is manipulation often seems as jealousy where a partner is motivated by the power to control. Manipulation can be as simple as phone calls, asking “Where are you?” or “Who are you with?”

“Jealousy is not healthy in a relationship,” Millard noted. Domestic violence also occurs in partners. In most relationships, control by the abuser is a key. The abuser will isolate you from your friends and family. He will slowly cut off life experiences with other people. He will monitor movements, make surprise visits to your home, such as checking the cell phone and emails, and ask friends questions. The abuser will try to isolate the partner from participating in college activities and going out with friends. Manipulating the partner’s time is very common among abusers, and it can cause the loss of a social support system.

These manipulating tactics can escalate and may become physically abusive. Most abuse, however, occurs without physical abuse. Some examples are abuse by hurting one’s self-esteem, or using words to mentally hurt the partner. Reducing one’s self-esteem is the beginning of creating fear. The victim fears losing the relationship or fears not having future relationship. Drugs and alcohol is not the cause of abuse; that is a myth.

Jealousy is not healthy in a relationship

Students noted how minority groups felt about domestic violence.

One video showed the lives of Native American women who grew up not knowing about their rights to live their culture. While culture was forced upon them and they were threatened if they talked about or practiced customs of their native culture.

Another film explained how Virginians who had to fight a long battle were bound to their past. When they first moved to the United States, from the emotional distress, a black woman’s career to feelings of degradation while working at a sweatshop. They were called racial slurs and demeaned with grounds stereotypes.

Another interesting video included a news report on a teacher who taught her third grade class about diversity. She separated the students based on skin color and race.

“Where are you?” or “Who are you with?” are asked by abusers. Reducing one’s self-esteem is the beginning of creating fear. The victim fears losing the relationship or fears not having future relationship. Drugs and alcohol is not the cause of abuse; that is a myth.

Students gather for a picture at Diversity Weekend

BCC Eyes a New Vision

BY ALON MELAMED
STAFF WRITER

A vision is how an organization would like to see itself in the future, and is a shared image of what it would like to become.

Bergen Community College President Jeremiah Ryan, the strategic planning group found that Bergen’s current vision statement is insufficient and needs to be changed. The college’s vision statement was written in 1999 and has dated references like Bergen’s progress as it goes “into the twenty-first century.” Furthermore, it lists four major aspects of the College that should be considered priority. Among them are learning, service, diversity and partnership.

As a result, the college is seeking to create new vision statement statements that better reflects what Bergen is and where it hopes to be in the future. In November, Bergen held three discussion sessions – one with President Ryan and the other two with Academic Vice Presidents Gary Porter.

Student discussion groups as well as several focus groups are being planned. Additionally, the college is seeking student input via a brief survey offered in the library. Students are being asked to answer four questions on flip chart paper located between the old and new sections of the library. The responses to these questions will provide Bergen’s mission statement and what Bergen’s mission should be and what Bergen should strive to become.

At one recent session, the thoughts considered in the vision process included a possible breakdown of white statements and inserting a popular and appealing catch phrase that prospective students and parents can relate to.

Another topic of discussion was making the school more environmentally friendly. In fact, as part of Bergen and the world’s adaptability to the global warming phenomena, solar panels have already been inserted on top of the West Hall.

Student Government Council President Ignacio Agosta suggested that the vision statement be hung in all classrooms when the new statement is finished. The idea is to enhance students’ understanding of diversity and a new few friends.

PHOTO COURTESY/GREG FENKHART, BCC OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

Diversity Weekend: The Details and Differences

By Robert Torres
STAFF WRITER

Some 114 students learned about diversity and ways to interact with students different from themselves during this year’s Diversity Weekend, hosted by Bergen Community College’s Student Activities Board at the Fernwood Hotel & Resort in Bushkill, PA.

The goal of this biannual trip was to give students a better understanding of how diversity affects our lives, so we see others, and the proper respectful way of treating people of different ethnicities, sexualities and disabilities.

Activities at the mid-October weekend included lectures on the different stages of racial acceptance, videos about minorities, a class experiment between blue eyes and brown eyes, poems and group activities.

The lectures mainly focused on different aspects of diversity and its effect on student’s lives. The group discussed race and sexuality as well as people with disabilities.

Admission to the trip is free and all students are eligible to attend; however, space is always limited so it’s best to sign up early. Students can register early in the semester usually at the Office of Student Life or speak to a member of the Student Activities Board.

During the lectures, students were given the opportunity to voice their opinions on various discussion topics such as the different levels of acceptance of other racial groups, stereotypes people give and receive based on their race, understanding the different stages of homosexuality and understanding disabilities. Students often form groups in which more personal conversations were possible. This was a great way to both get to know other students and make the discussions educational and fun.

By the end of the experiment, the children learned to treat others based on neither skin color nor race.

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Another interesting video included a news report on a teacher who taught her third grade class about diversity. She separated the students based on eye color; the blue-eyed students were from the brown-eyed students. By the end of the experiment, the children learned to treat others based on neither skin color nor race.

Fellow student Rebecca Harrison answered some questions about her experience at diversity weekend.

Q: What did you enjoy most about Diversity Weekend?

A: Getting to know the people, bonding with them, and learning about the ways of their culture. I liked how after meeting people, we got to hang out like at the pool party. We just had a good time.

Q: What surprised you the most about the weekend?

A: The little things I didn’t realize like helping those that don’t need help. For example, if we see a disabled person walking towards a door we automatically think they need help, when really we should first ask if they need help. Asking a blind person where something is located. Just because they are blind, doesn’t mean they don’t know where a room is.

Q: What was the best and worst part about Diversity Weekend?

A: We had to go to a lot of work-shops and not all of them were boring, but it was educational and so I did learn from them. We also watched a stand-up comedian and other videos that were interesting in a different way. There was also a pool party and hot tub, which was a student input thing. In the sauna we played ice breaker games, and at the Halloween party we got treats.

Q: Why do you think diversity is important?

A: Diversity is important to create a better understanding of humanity. It helps diminish racism and makes it easier to learn about other cultures.

Q: Did Diversity Weekend change anything about the way you see different cultures and races?

A: Yes it did. I went into it thinking it’s be more open-minded and left being more understanding and accepting of others.

Diversity Weekend was a fun experience during which students were able to gain a better understanding of diversity and a few new friends.
Get It Together: BCC Holds Organizing Principles Workshop

BY PATRICIA MIMALDO

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Are you a Planner or a Filer? Although these terms are generally considered “good” or “bad” answer, understanding your personal organizing style is critical to being productive and significantly reduce their day-to-day stress.

That was the message of a BCC workshop held on campus Friday called Organizing Principles, sponsored by BCC and the Bergen County Workforce Investment Board. The workshop was designed to guide attendees toward being organized and, ultimately, stress-free lifestyle.

Led by Carol A. Andolina, a professional organizer, member of the National Association of Professional Organizers and 25-year business veteran specializing in Corporate Training, the seminar explained how being organized saves people time and money, reduces stress and helps them achieve goals faster.

5. Be prepared for unexpected delays by allowing time for unplanned things to occur.

No one is perfect, but the key is to make sure that you get and stay organized to achieve your personal and professional goals.

Christine Todd Whitman’s name on the New Jersey Gov. sunny and enjoyable.

In 2004, McGreevey became the first governor in U.S. history to come out as a gay man. He left office after threats of a sexual harassment lawsuit became public by a former male lover and former state-appointee. The man who was his gay lover had also been a job on his administration as head of homeland security for New Jersey, a post the man later resigned in the face of persistent complaints that he wasn’t qualified.

He also spoke of late Russian author, Fyodor Dostoevsky.

"Dostoevsky defined man as a creature who can get used to anything," saying this in regard to the personal life he had filled with lies.

"Yes, but not without consequences," he added.

In his personal feelings, McGreevey said, "I lived not in one closet—but in many," and was a sick making existence.

He described an experience he had during his first gubernatorial campaign in the while in a campaign car on the Garden State Parkway. He looked out the window to see then Governor Christine Todd Whitman’s name on the New Jersey Gov. sunny and enjoyable.

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multiple sons, such that the last son has a higher percentage of being gay than the first son does. It has been mentioned that homosexuality is referred to in ancient Roman and Greek writings as a naturally occurring trait, as well as subtly referred to in British writings of the 17th and 18th centuries, as a form of sexual deviance. For many years the notion of being gay wasn’t, if you will, set forth distinctly. It wasn’t until Freud developed the concept that many people, including himself, considered homosexuality as being separate, distinct, and apart from the human condition. Religious misunderstanding was the basis of his second key point. Religion, he said, had longed for, “a loving and sound sexual experience with another human.” Yet, he said, “The scientific establishment was edified by literature and opinion that the idea of homosexuality was a personal matter. Back then, homosexuality was considered an illness that needed to be treated, he noted.

Today there is an understanding that homosexuality is scientifically defined and that it is normally practiced in the last decade, allowing people to see that human sex.

“It is as natural as having brown eyes or blue eyes, it’s who and what and you are.”

He also alluded to studies that show the incidence of bearing a gay son increases with having multiple sons. said, “I didn’t not in one closet—but in many.”

Danny said it’s all about setting priorities straight. You’re going to let others decide that is wrong and, you know, you’re going to give up on your own life, but, ultimately, you have a choice to make things better.

One of the highlights of the New Jersey Governor was Daniel past 600 words.

Danny Roberts was on the New Jersey Gov. sunny and enjoyable.

Ruthe took her denial one step further and admitted, “I was homophobic...I was trying to deny how I felt.

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Teaching the Science of Global Warming: How one BCC professor is trying to give the scientific facts without a separate agenda

By DOUG SMITH

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

An important dynamic is often missing from many public discussions on global warming. Science in an atmosphere infused with politics, distinguishing between scientific and policy-based opinions, can become difficult. Since the science of global warming has been a huge part of his life’s work, Bergen Community College’s Dr. Roger Opstbaum stated he had a personal obligation to present it correctly. “Take him for his word when he says, ‘My agenda is the health of the planet.’”

The planet is heating up because of our burning of fossil fuels; that’s an undisputable fact. The cause for alarm is well justified, but what Dr. Opstbaum has shed light on is the fact that this panic may be making us overlook scientific facts. For example, how does one know that these new alternatives won’t also raise temperatures?

This is what Dr. Opstbaum has been addressing, especially when he recently spoke to local high school and college science teachers at a seminar on teaching the science of global warming. The aim was to educate students on the basics of global warming. The professor has repeatedly stated that in order to achieve the understanding students need to have before speaking on the topic, you must first describe the science behind it.

Therefore, the professor decided to host a series of seminars where the audience would be asked to come up with solutions and plans of action. The professors would then share this information with the audience and then discuss the solutions. The seminars are open to the public. Anyone who is interested in learning about the science of global warming is encouraged to attend.

Several times a year, Dr. Opstbaum holds a citizen’s meeting during which local residents attend free of charge and discuss the problem of global warming. People are encouraged to bring plants, ramps, and bolts about the problem to the meeting. The aim is to use this as a form of education and inspiration to those who are interested in discussing the problem of global warming. The professor has stated that the best way to handle this problem is to have people come together and figure out a method of approaching the problem. The professor has repeatedly emphasized the importance of understanding that this is a global problem and that we must come together to solve it. The professor has also stated that the best way to handle this problem is to have people come together and figure out a method of approaching the problem. The professor has repeatedly emphasized the importance of understanding that this is a global problem and that we must come together to solve it. The professor has also stated that the best way to handle this problem is to have people come together and figure out a method of approaching the problem. The professor has repeatedly emphasized the importance of understanding that this is a global problem and that we must come together to solve it.
**By Ervisa Bilalaj**

**STAFF WRITER**

On October 30, 2007, Tamin Ansary presented his third satellite seminar, “Afghanistan after the Taliban.” He discussed the Afghan government’s improvements since the Taliban regime left power, the history of Afghanistan as a zone of continuous wars, and its foreign policy.

Ansary, son of an American mother and an Afghan father, was born and raised under Islamic tradition in Kabul. He is a monthly columnist for the New York Times and an author. His books include “West of Kabul,” which was translated to 24 languages, and “Other Side of the Sky,” which he co-authored with Farah Ahmedi.

STAFF PHOTO/ERVISA BILALAJ

Tamin Ansary fields questions from around the nation for PTK’s third satellite seminar.

**PTK Presents: Afghanistan after the Taliban**

**By Ervisa Bilalaj**

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**See Afghanistan . . page 6**
Great American Smoke-out: Enlists Smokers to Kick the Habit

By Chris May

ConTRIBUTING WRITER

With all the festive spirits, high-energy events, and cheerful people, it seemed like a party, but in actuality Bergen Community College was celebrating the American Cancer Society's Great American Smoke-out on November 13.

There was free coffee, tea, and Danishes for those who wanted to take the day off from smoking, or those who just wanted to stop by to see what all the commotion was about. “I think the Smoke-out was beneficial to students and staff alike,” said Alison Manche, a non-smoking student. “I think that the Smoke-out was beneficial both inside and outside of the classroom. It gave way to a collaboration between the Bergen Lit Club and the Student Center, and discussed the importance of making the first step towards stopping smoking.”

The BergenLit Club has just created this year but already has a large group of members. “The Bergen Literature Club was just created this year but already has a large group of members. The excitement of sharing their own love of literature without the pressure of the classroom. Every Tuesday, club members meet in room S-134 from 12:30 to 1:40 p.m., and the members are given the opportunity to give a BergenLit presentation. The way it works is a member is responsible for reading a book or poem, watch a play or movie, or listen to music. Then, the member must fill out a Brown Bag Lecture Proposal, ensuring a date to talk about it. The club is involved in activities other than just reading literature. The BergenLit Club has arranged special readings related to ethnic groups celebrated during the diversity weeks at Bergen. The club has also collaborated with the Literary Arts Series, where Prof. Balkan is co-chair. "[W]e learn about a revolving kind of library, work with the bookstore in the selection of appropriate books for the many diversity weeks on campus, collaborate on Diversity Week programming with outside organizations, and will all be available to the Student Center, and that’s not going to be any time soon. If you want to call it permanent, we can wait for it to happen sometime during the semester. But I think students are using it, from what I hear, it is the best kept secret standard for all the colleges to follow as a cutoff score. The Presidential Council and Academic Officers agreed to implement the standard in fall 2009.”

Meditation

Mr. Heade stepped up, once again, at the start of this semester to find the present room and required at least a one-month accommodation during Ramadan, which takes place throughout September, the holiest days of all months in the Islamic calendar. The accommodation was granted, extended, and open to all.

Soon after, e-mail notification was sent to the college community from the Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Ralph Choonoo. To date, Dr. Choonoo has received no such e-mails, he said.

In an October Student Government meeting, Bergen’s President, Dr. Jeremel Ryan, told SGC he would work towards securing a permanent room. He also stated that there is a legislation that will not otherwise have passed the course,” she said.

Afghanistan

Only one day after the peace conference in Bonn, Germany did the U.N. and U.S. decide to help the country with a war against the Taliban. The agreement included concepts of an assembly, elections, and the return of power to the people. Although the economy still needs improvement, millions of dollars are going to the roads and open fields to prevent killings and bring back the land’s productivity. Afghanistan possesses 20 percent of the world’s oil, which is found in the north, in addition to other natural resources.

In a conference held in Tokyo, the outside allies estimated that $30 billion was needed to reconstruct the country. While $19 billion was of opposition to this on campus regarding the room. Heade attributes the opposition to the separation of state and church. "From what I understand of this," she said, "the notion that if you give an accommodation to one group, you must equally give it to the other. This sounds great, but I think that some people just want to deny people a certain opportunity. And that’s not going to be any time soon. If you want to call it permanent, we can wait for it to happen sometime during the semester. But I think students are using it, from what I hear, it is the best kept secret.

The Developmental Math Department gives students the structure of courses and developmental programs. "The Developmental Math Department gives students the structure of courses and developmental programs, said Prof. Silverberg. "Changes are always under consideration, brought forth and studied in an on-going fashion. This fall, in usual, several experiments have been conducted." One experiment involved the development of at least a one-month accommodation during Ramadan, which takes place throughout September, the holiest days of all months in the Islamic calendar. The accommodation was granted, extended, and open to all.

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Caribbean Dancers

By Bianca Kuzako
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Diversified. When it comes to the Caribbean in America, it’s more than a word. From Argentinian tango and Mexican literature, to Cuban cinema and Brazilian Forro, this year’s “Latino Heritage Week” gave Bergen students a taste of the diversity of cultures south of the border.

“Diversity Within” was the theme of this year’s event which ran from Oct. 19-Nov. 2 and featured the sights, sounds and tastes of all things Latin. Setting the tone for the week’s events was “Diversity Within: A Conversation,” a moderated panel discussion, said Amparo Coddington, Dean of Humanities and chairwoman of the Latino Heritage Week committee.

“That was different this year,” said Dean Coddington. “We asked students and faculty members to share what their cultural experiences of being Latino and growing up in the United States. We learned that we all have unique experiences regardless of cultural backgrounds.”

Joining the discussion was Dr. Robert L. Hildebrand, director of admissions and co-chair of the event, said the diversity discussion was the event that “defined the week” for him.

“Forro, this year’s “Latino Heritage Week” ended with a “TING” of this year’s event which ran from Oct. 19-Nov. 2, and featured the sights, sounds and tastes of all things Latin. Setting the tone for the week’s events was “Diversity Within: A Conversation,” a moderated panel discussion, said Amparo Coddington, Dean of Humanities and chairwoman of the Latino Heritage Week committee.

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“The term ‘Latino’ is looked at as only one group of people, and this week we got to explore how diverse Latinos really are,” he said. “Our Latino population is diverse, and we must acknowledge this fact.”

Latinos represent the largest ethnic population at Bergen; about 27 percent of the student population are Latino, according to statistics from fall 2006 compiled by BCC’s Office of Research and Planning.

Latino Heritage Week drew participation from a wide range of the college community. BCC’s College of Education, Social Sciences and Nursing, held a lively discussion on Latin American Literature that included an analysis of Carlos Fuentes’ La Muerte de La Reina by Prof. Stacey Baskin. The discussion was held during the college’s annual Fall Break lecture, said Jack Hildebrand, the Bergen Jr. program chair.

“‘Lejos de la Isla/Far from the Island’ was the story in the Greek mythology and the work of the English poet John Keats – it was amazing to see how Latino culture was intertwined with other traditions,” Hildebrand said.

A Latin American Food Fest held Oct. 25 in the Student Center by the Latin American Student Association, known as LASA, allowed students to sample a rich and diverse Latin cuisine and enjoy live musical entertainment with group FIESTA. LASA also held the week’s final event with a big cocaine party on Nov. 2.

The best-attended happening was “Fusión Tango” held on October 19 in the Ciccone Theatre and was open to the community. According to Dean Coddington, Fusión Tango is a fusion of Argentine Tango and Modern Dance and it pushes the classic tale of romance, seduction and betrayal to the edge with unexpected twists. Fusión Tango was created by Sandra Antognazzi.

“Cine Café” featured the film “Lejos de la Isla” from the Island” on October 25 and featured director Luis E. Salas, who answered questions after the film. The event was sponsored by Drexel’s Program of Latin American Studies.

A performance of Fusión Tango was a highlight during Latino Heritage Week.

Caribbean week Ends with a “TING”

By Nicole Januario
STAFF WRITER

This past week consisted of commemorating the Caribbean heritage, with various activities happening around campus that made our islanders feel right at home. The last day of this festival was celebrated on Friday the 9th with a steel band called The Island Boys Steel band, hammering us into the weekend and out of Caribbean week.

Many of you who are unaware of what the steel drum is or how it ended up in the Caribbean, you can think of it. Of one opening tunes on Friday was a popular Bob Marley song, which created a soothing atmosphere making me want to grab a coconut and put on a grass skirt, forgetting the fact that I was still in the student center and protected from the bitter cold and drizzle happening outside. The pan was initially constructed out of 55-gallon oil drums, which were carefully tuned by hearing the pans over fire, and then denoting them to produce tones containing the full chromatic range of notes. A man called Winston Simson was the first to discover the art of denoting a steel drum and producing a tone.

The whole culture of the steel band resulted after a couple of incidences, dating back to the British Colonial rule of Trinidad in the 1800’s, when hand drums were used to call for neighborhood gangs to collect and ‘mash up’ with other gangs.

Hoping to stop the violence, the government outlawed hand drums in 1886. The Trinidadians now deprived of their drums, turned to the ‘Bamboo Tambour’, where each member of the group would carry a length of bamboo and pound it on the ground as the group walked through the streets, producing distinct rhythmic ‘signatures’ which identified each gang. When this combination of each other’s ideas, values and knowledge, they are gradually becoming a challenge to the Western developmental model. Dominance in science and technology, and culture.

“China and India will reshape the world and our lives, whether we are ready for it or not,” Dr. Wang concluded.

On celebration of Asian Heritage Week, Dr. Luis E. Salas, a Buddhist monk and visiting scholar from Columbia University, held a lecture on the Saffron Revolution in Burma. The event was co-sponsored by the Asian Heritage Committee and the Department of Philosophy and Religion.

Since September, 500 thousand Buddhist monks paraded through the streets with several Burmese supporters to protest the government’s policies and actions against its own people. Monks have been beaten, abused, killed or incarcerated.

Several hundred of these monks have been detained in military or political institutions. The people of Burma attempted to offer them food, which proved a small problem for the monks since they are not allowed to take food once noon to 3:30 A.M.

As the monks walked throughout Burma, 400 thousand badly armed military soldiers from Myanmar blocked their way with orders from the government to allow the military to stop the protest in any manner needed, including several arrests and even torture.

The cause of the monks’ rally had nothing to do with more polities—what they saw was the suffering of the people because the government continued to suppress and rule harshly over civilian lives.

The monks warned the government afraid of time that if something did not change, they would protest. In reaction to this warning, government

Latino Heritage’ Week Sizzles

Dance, Music, Literature and Food Highlighted

By Lauren King
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Where is this century heading?” This was the question Dr. Gabe Wang posed in a keynote speech on the future of China and India during Bergen Community College’s Asian Heritage Week. Dr. Wang shared his knowledge on Nov. 12 of the growing economies of India and China.

To answer this question, he described how U.S. news reports about China and India have been based on many inaccurate assumptions, particularly because both India and China’s economies have been in a period of steady growth for some time now. This could soon turn the tables on America, the world’s current economic powerhouse.

During the summer of 2007, Dr. Wang visited China and noted several changes. A picture shown during the presentation pointed out various changes that generations seemingly began to adopt the ways of life and behavior of U.S. citizens, and the buildings are designed similarly to those in the U.S. It looks to believe Beijing was New York City’s twin.

While visiting India, however, he noticed that it was quite different from Westernized. Very few people are likely to accept the varied lifestyles and values of India, Westernized. Very few people are likely to accept the varied lifestyles and values.

China and India’s drastic economic developments are due to each country’s ambition to learn more about science and improve modern technology. In fact, Dr. Wang stated that China and India are equally fall victims to Western power during the Industrial Revolution during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, by 2006, China’s economy increased 14 percent while India’s economy currently holds a steady 6.4 percent of the world’s total economic output. The U.S. currently accounts for 19.8 percent of the world’s economy.

Since China and India have hand in hand, together, these combined percentages consist almost half of the world’s economic output.

As of now, China has a labor force of 800 million people (300 million people reside in the U.S.). India’s population is 2.3 times the size of the European Union and, with China’s population included, it times the size of the U.S. population.

For centuries China and India continue to communicate with each other. Chinese scholars traveled to India (truly Indian medicine, tech. “powerhouse of science and technology.” Stressing the importance of education also contributes to both countries’ rising economic statistics.

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January 19, 2007. I was at a dance practice when I found out about the murder of Hrant Dink. I still remember the shock and the hatred that ran through my veins, the chills that ran from my head to my toes, and the way my breath went for air. I was so shocked that I didn’t even know how to breathe. It was too much. I was upset and angry, I still had a sense of pride for my people to lose Armenian and though Hrant was killed, I was prouder that I shared his same dream.

Hrant was the co-founder of the Armenian-Turkish newspaper called Ara. He was a leader in the fight for more recognition for the Armenians and the history of Turkey and around the world. He was dedicated to working for better peace between the Turks and the Armenians, not an alliance, but a

We help transport millions of germs simply by not washing our hands.

When to Wash Your Hands:

• Before and after eating
• Before you treat any cut or abrasion
• Before removing or inserting contact lenses
• After using the bathroom
• After touching a pet
• After eating raw or handling raw food, especially meat, fish and fresh dairy products
• After handling garbage

When we use too much hand sanitizer over a period of time, we can eventually cause a skin condition called “hand sanitizer dermatitis.” A hand sanitizer cannot kill all types of germs. For example, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer will not kill spores or things such as MRSA (methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus). Hand sanitizers are not a substitute for washing with water and soap. They are a complement to washing with water and soap.

Lymphatic System

The lymphatic system is basically a system that wards off diseases. It consists of lymph nodes linked to lymph vessels that carry the lymph fluid around the body. The lymph fluid is colorless and contains high levels of white blood cells. Included with- in this system is the body’s bone marrow, spleen and thymus organs, and lymph nodes. The nodes are bean-shaped areas with a huge con- centrations of lymphatic filters. The lymphatic system has three basic functions:

- to drain excess interstitial fluid from tissue spaces back into the blood
- to transport lipid and lipid soluble vitamins from the gastrointestinal tract to lymphatic system
- to carry the body’s immunity functions

There are two types of immunity, innate (non-specific) and adaptive immunity. See “Wash your Hands!” . . . page 14
Talking with Hands: How Actions Speak Louder Than Words

BY SARAHNA THOMPSON
GUEST WRITER

In the Philippines, people eat with their hands. Thus, they use their hands while eating delicious, meat-and-vegetable-filled fried “lumpia” rolls. Besides the obvious, everything else is not eaten with a fork, but with your hands. Race and meat are grabbed between the pointer, middle and thumb fingers and neatly (or not so neatly) popped into an eager and hungry mouth. Filipinos feel no shame in displaying the way they eat and enjoy their food—it’s part of the culture. It’s charming, but not so much when countries collide and in comes culture confusion.

With an African-American father and a Philippine mother, I’m bi-racial, but resemble my mother more. My mother moved from the Philippines to the United States after I was born. Following tradition, she eats with her hands. Following American tradition, I, of course, did and do not.

Growing up down South, in Texas of all places, it became evident that my mother was different. She grew up in “the country,” as she calls it, but it’s more like on a farm in the middle of a jungle on the island of Mindanao. I grew up in the suburbs, attended Girl Scouts, and liked art and riding my bike. Contrary to the typical female role models, my mother was not like my blonde, big haired, blue-eyed Girl Scout leader, or like my friend’s mothers who worked at banks or had jobs as pediatrics or elementary school teachers. She wasn’t even like the noisy stay-at-home mothers who always meant well. My mother was a work-a-holic, and she was content managing a convenience store. Other mothers didn’t think a whole roast pig, or “lechon,” at a child’s birthday party was fancy, or even normal. Most of all, they didn’t eat with their hands. I was embarrassed at a young age by my mother’s little quirks that were merely imprints of her culture.

Of course, there were other things that set us apart. Instead of referring to someone as a “he,” it would come out as “she.” I remember being confused as a child because I had been taught and consistently sang to that the letter “Q” in the alphabet was pronounced like the letter “K” but more like “keh.” By the time I was in the first grade I remember correcting my mother’s grammar and laughing at her mistakes in verbage. I had an unusual, large vocabulary as a child. I liked to read, write, and draw. My mother, on the other hand, still had trouble forming sentences, and would be angry at me for doodling on the walls and erase me for reading all the books I read. I used to make up stories about what I believed was typical for mothers to do and say to tell my friends, their parents, and teachers. Instead of my mom celebrating her birthday with our Filipino friends, eating fish heads and whole pigs while singing karaoke, I lied and said we spent an evening at a fancy steakhouse.

Towards the end of junior high, my mother’s English got a little better. She seemed to be fitting into a less embarrassing role as my mother. However, her now semi-proper use of grammar didn’t hide the fact that she continued to use her hands to eat. I started telling the friends of my friends over for dinner to eat the delicacies I grew up eating. One particular night at dinner, I turned a bright shade of red when my mother ignored the utensils she had set out on the table and began eating her food with her hands. I just couldn’t take it anymore. “We are in America, here we eat with at least a fork!” I obnoxiously pointed out. I had embarrassed her. She didn’t say anything, but instead picked up her fork and finished her meal without saying a word. In this case, her actions spoke louder than any words could have.

After that, my mom did continue to eat with her hands, but less as time passed. I’m not sure if my mom was affected by my pre-teen brattiness or was just becoming more Americanized on her own. Back then, I did not regret saying what I said, but I do now. As an adult, I miss all the endearing qualities of our culture my mom once possessed. My family has been through so much drama with divorce and money issues—it would be nice if we could go back to simpler times, when my mother used to eat with her hands.

iPhone Competition on the Rise This Holiday Season

BY JOE POLINGINO
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The arrival of the iPhone has prompted a battle within the mobile phone industry toward this new kind of touch screen phone. While Apple has set the benchmark with its iPhone by being the first of its kind in terms of design and functionality, it certainly is not the only phone that boasts a sleek design, MP3 and video capabilities, a touch screen, and a unique user interface.

Many consumers are also unaware of the iPhone’s many handicaps. The iPhone is only available in the United States after I was born. Following tradition, she eats with her hands. Following American tradition, I, of course, did and do not.

Growing up down South, in Texas of all places, it became evident that my mother was different. She grew up in “the country,” as she calls it, but it’s more like on a farm in the middle of a jungle on the island of Mindanao. I grew up in the suburbs, attended Girl Scouts, and liked art and riding my bike. Contrary to the typical female role models, my mother was not like my blonde, big haired, blue-eyed Girl Scout leader, or like my friend’s mothers who worked at banks or had jobs as pediatrics or elementary school teachers. She wasn’t even like the noisy stay-at-home mothers who always meant well. My mother was a work-a-holic, and she was content managing a convenience store. Other mothers didn’t think a whole roast pig, or “lechon,” at a child’s birthday party was fancy, or even normal. Most of all, they didn’t eat with their hands. I was embarrassed at a young age by my mother’s little quirks that were merely imprints of her culture.

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Many consumers are also unaware of the iPhone’s many handicaps. The iPhone is only available in America to subscribers of AT&T. While the phone is one of the most advanced on the market, the network is built to run on is not. Most cell phones now support 3G access which provides broadband speeds to users. This allows them to run applications like streaming videos and overall fast email and web browsing service; the iPhone currently runs on 2.5G known to most as “EDGE,” which is fast but not up to par with the current standards. It does, however, support Wi-Fi, but this feature can only be accessed a set limit of 150 times per month.

The iPhone has its own rate plan which allows us-called “unlimited” data that isn’t really unlimited. As mentioned, Wi-Fi access is limited and running applications on the phone such as “YouTube,” are not covered as unlimited. The plan also only supports 200 SMS (text) messages per month. The iPhone has no MMS capabilities, which means you can’t send picture or video messages. Being that the iPhone is incapable of recording video, you won’t be able to do the latter half anyway.

The iPhone is currently selling through AT&T and Apple retail stores for around $400. Anyone who wants to purchase an iPhone must do so with a credit card. That’s right, no cash is accepted. Even Apple gift cards cannot be used toward the purchase of the iPhone. There is also a two phone limit per person.

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Spring semester begins January 23.
I was enraged and sick to my stomach as I continued to read about animal abuse cases. To name a few: There were two brothers who tied a puppy up and left it in an oven to die. There was another animal shelter in Texas where a landlord killed two of his tenants’ cats with a shotgun and the landlord was not charged because no one witnessed the killing and the cat was buried in the state. The judge stated that she didn’t like what the landlord did, but she didn’t do anything to stop it. The loss of a pet can be just as dev- estating to someone as the loss of a person. Just because animals can’t speak does not mean they are not sentient beings from the very start. Animals have a lot of the same needs as humans do. They have emotions. They get sick, need nourishment, and require love just like people do. I can see it every single day. It is a harsh contrast, but there is no difference between animals and humans is that animals cannot tell you what they feel. They cannot speak, but if you love your animals, you can learn how your animal communicates. Even someone who is not very fond of animals should respect another living, breathing, sentient being. The only explanation I have for these animal abusers is that they act as guilty as people who abuse other people, and they should be prosecuted to the fullest. Most cruelty to animals is not an act of hatred, but a history of abusing animals. Vick gave a statement apologizing for his immature acts. He apologized to all the children in the world for his immature acts. The audacity of Vick to label his killing and sadis- tic abuse of animals “immature acts.” It proves that Vick does not see the severity of his actions. It also emphasizes his detachment to any type of emotion or remorse. Would killing human beings by way of hanging, electrocution, and drowning be considered “immu- nate acts” or “irresponsible behavior”? Yeah, that would really go over well in the court system. “Your honor, I apologize for hang- ing an 18-year-old girl. Or “Your honor, I apologize for an innocent elderly woman.” Or “Your honor, I apologize for electrocuting his son because he lost his baseball game.” To the people at Vick’s out there, I hope you feel as much suf- fering as what you put those ani- mals through. I urge you to only ex- perience between animals and humans is that animals cannot tell you what they feel. They cannot speak, but if you love your animals, you...
World AIDS Day 2007: 6,000 Reasons to Act

Every year since 1988 communities from around the globe have taken part in World AIDS Day, serving to spread awareness, facts, and the practice of making responsible decisions regarding the spread of HIV and AIDS. This year the theme of World AIDS Day was “6,000 Reasons to Act,” which served to make the world conscious of the 6,000 children who lose at least one parent to this deadly affliction every year.

We at The Torch recognize that spreading awareness is a great asset of ours. It is in this same spirit of awareness that we have chosen the red banner and ribbon which adorn the front page of this issue in honor of these 6,000 children.

Unlike any other epidemic, the spread of knowledge CAN cease the spread of this illness. Please help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS by getting tested, making responsible decisions about sex, and encouraging everyone you know to do the same.

There are still many among us who remember a world without AIDS, let us not be the last.

To find HIV Test Centers near you, visit www.hivtest.org, www.knowhivaids.org, or simply text your zip code to KnowIt.

RateMyProfessors.com: Helpful to Students, Horrific for Professors

By Jill Bartlett
Managing Editor

Abh, the age of information. Not only is it easier for me to remember friend’s birthdays through social networking sites, but I can also chat with my boy, Matt, in California, buy a toaster, and pay my bills—all while my cat naps peacefully on my lap.

The wonders of the World Wide Web never cease to amaze me. They may, however, shock the senses out of some college professors who thought (until after reading this article) that they were doing, pretty decent job educating the youth of America.

RateMyProfessors.com gives students the chance to speak out more thoroughly than do those useless SIR professor evaluations. On this site, students and teachers alike can view every entry other students have posted. Upon opening a professor’s profile, the first thing your eyes see are how many yellow happy faces (good quality), green so-so faces (average quality), or blue sad faces (bad quality) a specific professor received. You can also see individual scores as well as an overall scorecard based upon four categories: easiness, helpfulness, clarity, and student interest in the course. There is also a space to click on a chili pepper symbol if you think the professor you are rating is ‘hot’.

That’s right, professors. Your students are criticizing you worse than you could have ever imagined. Your looks, your teaching habits, your hygiene, your organizational skills, your grading processes and your attitude are all in question.

The good thing is, if a professor disagrees with a certain rating or comment posted, they are permitted to post their own rebuttal. The MTV network has also recently launched its own online 24-hour college network, MTVU, which contains a special section of videos called “Professors Strike Back.” The videos show professors from around the country defending themselves against heinous comments like, “Being a pillow to this one.” However, steering clear of the student site means to the concept among most professors.

Pop quiz, hotshots. Of the following four statements, which one has actually been written by an intact Bergen Community College student on the popular website, RateMyProfessors.com?

A) “She seemed spaced out like she was taken by a UFO the night before and ended up in some classroom.”
B) “Do not ask him to explain anything too deeply or you will confuse him.”
C) “She gets confused very easily and likes being asked about her grading process.”
D) “Makes you wonder if a monkey could do her job since all she does is read off of handouts that don’t even seem to be hers.”

If you answered E, you are correct. All four of the above statements are listed on RateMyProfessors.com—and yes, all regard Bergen professors.

Your looks, your teaching habits, your hygiene…are all in question.

If you are a professor reading this, we know what you are thinking—thank God for tenure. But that’s not the half of it. Some of the comments made about BCC’s math professors are especially outrageous.

Of course, as many of us already know, the ratings of the math professors are moot anyway. It is no use looking up any remedial professor’s ratings because all of next semester’s listings in the course catalog under the “professor” heading are TBA— to be announced.

Several students told me that they have delayed enrolling in their remedial math classes until a better-rated professor is available. The general student opinion is that certain sections fill up faster because those professor’s have received higher ratings on the site. Rather than taking a math class with a poorly-rated professor students opt to delay their remedial classes for a semester, or wait until some students drop out at the beginning of the semester and take their places. This can put a delay on the student’s progression towards graduation, as no student can register past 15 credits if they have not started their remedial math requirement. It also causes a backup in enrollment.

Based on the ruminations of students involved in the English Basic Skills (EBS) program, those poor undergraduates are experiencing what I like to call “quasi-unintelligible return syndrome.” “If you have different thought than her, you get F.”

“Even if you do all the work and be in class everyday, she still won’t give you a B.”

“Don’t waste your time or money.”

The worst part about this situation? I’m not too sure if their inability to articulate somewhat of a grammatically correct review is a good thing (maybe said professor won’t feel as hurt) or a bad thing (perhaps said professor will finally realize how much of a bad job he is doing).

In the professor’s defense, someone should explain to these students that showing up to class and doing all the work doesn’t always constitute learning. Either way, it’s a lose-lose situation.

But our professors are getting some good reviews too.

“Only guy in the world that can make boring material interesting!” he says.

“Gives a lot of examples, which is good, and gives you a lot of opportunities to make you think.”

“It’s a great professor who truly cares about his students. He wants everyone to do well. He takes the time to get to know everyone in class.” (This professor has also achieved “chili pepper status.”)

“She’s great, she’s kind, understanding and easy to understand. Pay attention in class and take good notes and you won’t need this article.”

Overall, Bergen professors seem to be getting more yellow high-quality faces than anything else. It’s the tabulation between green faces and blue that seems too close to call.

Art Mimics College Environment

The Torch, a member of the Associated College Press and the College Media Association, is the official student newspaper of Bergen Community College. The purpose of the Torch is to report on the events at BCC and the local community and to offer the BCC community a forum for the expression. The opinions expressed in The Torch are not necessarily those of The Torch. All the materials submitted to The Torch become property of The Torch.
November/December Music Picks: Keeping Your Ears Warm

By ALON MELAMED
Entertainment Editor

Although you may be getting into the chilly December groove, this month’s picks are bound to make you move your body and stay warm. Say, “Farewell!” to those lazy winter days and “Hello!” to the hottest artists keeping your ears happy and warm.

The Carnival II: Memoirs of an Immigrant/Wyclef Jean: The Haitian third of the infamous three-man Fugees is releasing his sixth solo studio album featuring an all-star supporting cast. Among this masterful effort’s producers aside from Jean himself is Jerry Duplessis, producer of The Score (1996). As for the songs themselves, Akon, T.I., Serj Tankian of System of a Down and even Paul Simon help Jeramy’s (Jean) tunes. In addition Shakira, after Wyclef appeared on her single “Hips Don’t Lie,” returns the favor by appearing in the song appropriately titled “King and Queen.”

Will Smith is Legend This December

By BILL JILLET
Managing Editor

Widely acclaimed fiction writer and horror author extraordinaire Richard Matheson has been influencing horror writers such as Stephen King for decades.

Many of Matheson’s novels have been fodder for Hollywood screenwriters including A Stir of Echoes, The Shining Man (as Loga Rura), The Mist, What Dreams May Come, and Hell House (as The Legend of Hell House). Matheson’s apocalyptic sci-fi masterpiece I Am Legend is set to come to the big screen for the third time on December 14, 2007, with Will Smith playing the part of Robert Neville—the last man left on Earth after a deadly virus wiped out his family and all human civilization.

Previous screenplays based on the book include 1964’s The Last Man on Earth, which Vincent Price was the lead role and Matheson received his screenwriting credit through the alias “Logan Swensen.” Matheson had no actual involvement in writing the screenplay for The Omen or a Man, which was also a derivative of I Am Legend filmed in 1971 with Charlton Heston as the lead. I Am Legend tells the story of Robert Neville, an American man who witnesses his family, and all of humanity, succumb to a dark pandemic that has vampire-like characteristics. After days alone turn into weeks, months, and eventually years, he accepts his fate and daily routine—only to find out he is not truly alone. Each night he bars his house securely and waits, hoping that he will find him dead.

Although the trailer does not give too much away, it is as enticing as the novel’s cover art depicting a row of ghostsly human-like creatures that stare at the reader as if he or she was Neville himself. The book takes place in the suburbs of Los Angeles, but the film will place the setting in New York City with the intense visual element of a deserted NYC to serve as a backdrop to the point of being fully alone. One would be hard-pressed to imagine the ‘City that never sleeps’ coming to an abruptly eloquent standstill. Furthermore, everyone the world over recognizes the NYC skyline, and Los Angeles only wishes they could say the same.

Aside from the look of it, Warner Brothers did the book justice. It has also been said that anything Will Smith touches turns to Hollywood gold. The readers of Matheson’s original novel will, of course, be slightly harsher in judgment.

To view the trailer, visit www.iamlegendwarnerbrothers.com. Richard Matheson’s novel, I Am Legend, is available at most major booksellers and also online at www.amazon.com.

10 reasons to transfer to Iona College:
1. Ranked a best northeast educational college by The Princeton Review.
3. Named a BusinessWeek Best Undergraduate Business Program.
4. World-class education where faculty know your name.
5. Super-successful alumni.
6. 22 NCAA Division I (MAAC) athletic teams.
7. Fantastic internships.
8. Scenic suburban campus only 20 miles from midtown Manhattan.
9. Dozens of campus clubs and activities.

Learn more about transferring to Iona College.

Undergraduate Open House – Sunday, November 4, 2007
715 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY – Home Athletics Center
Register today. Call 888-21-DIONA or register online at iona.edu.

Cultivating 2007-2008 years of Christian Brother's Education.

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Are you looking for a challenging position where you can help middle-school and high-school students? Allies Inc. has excellent opportunities in New Jersey for you to assist disabled individuals reach their full potential and lead rewarding lives.

Social Service

earned his B.S. degree in Business and Management from Iona College.

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Are you interested in working with high school students? Allies Inc. is a non-profit, non-sectarian agency that serves the training needs of disabled high school students, ages 16 to 21, with severe disabilities.

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The Importance of Being Earnest Packs House at Ender

BY NICOLE JANARI

For Gwendolyn and Earnest, it was love at first sight...
At St. Thomas Aquinas College we reward excellence and students who transfer to us from a community college or four year institution can receive up to a $6,000 annual transfer scholarship. Show us your transcript and we just might show you a $2,000, $4,000 or $6,000 annually renewable transfer scholarship.

As a student considering transferring, we will set aside time just for you to help you take the next step. We’ll set an appointment for you to meet with a transfer coordinator who will evaluate your credentials, discuss your plans, provide you with a tour, and a visit with a faculty member.

St. Thomas Aquinas College is a fast growing, liberal arts college that offers over 60 different majors, minors, specializations, and dual degree programs. You can get started this semester with a new perspective. Business Administration, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Social Sciences, and Teacher Education — all great choices, and there are many others awaiting you at St. Thomas.

Show us your transcript and find out what we have to offer in Scholarship Money to Transfer Students!
Fall Out Boy’s Young Wild Things Tour Takes Over

BY AMANDA FERRANTE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

It’s a chilly November night in New York City. If you’re looking for the place teenage girls’ voices go to die and the bleeding ears of the fathers who took them there, you’ll find yourself at the Young Wild Things Tour with headliners Fall Out Boy, Gym Class Heroes and, Delilah’s favorite, The Plain White T’s.

In promotion of their third album, Infinity on High, the monstrously successful emo-pop-punk four-piece tag their musical pals along for a 35-city tour that brings all the adolescents out to play with their homemade shirts and ripped vocal chords.

Our fashionably late entrance leaves my ears in utter disarray. The song that suffocated radio waves all summer is still haunting as the new year approaches. “Hey There Delilah” concludes the Plain White T’s set, which is reason enough for me. As thousands of girls pay homage to the famous Delilah’s favorite, The Plain White T’s.

Mucho of their homemade shirts and ripened all the adolescents out to play with their hometown that isn’t moving. In promotion of their third album, Infinity on High, the monstrously successful emo-pop-punk four-piece Tag their musical pals along for a 35-city tour that brings all the adolescents out to play with their homemade shirts and ripped vocal chords.

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You’ve earned college credits or perhaps even your Associate Degree. Now, take the next step and consider transferring to Saint Peter’s College as a full-time undergraduate!

We offer:

More than 40 majors leading to the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree
Transfer Student Scholarships and Generous Financial Aid
On-campus housing
An easy application process: we are a member of NJTransfer.org
Individualized advisement and transfer credit evaluations

Each year, more than 100 students transfer to Saint Peter’s and find success. Learn how Saint Peter’s can be the right place for you, too!

TRANSFER DAY:
Wednesday, December 19 • 10am to 4pm

Register for Spring courses, tour campus and residence halls, speak with a financial aid counselor, and receive an instant admission decision.
Information about Cooperative Education, Internships and EOF programs will also be provided. RSVP to Joann Emmanuel at 201.761.7114 or jemmanuel@spc.edu.

EDUCATION. ONE STUDENT AT A TIME. The Jesuit College of New Jersey
way that both cultures could get along with one another.
Not only was he involved with helping others and dedicating his life to making things better, he was also close family friend of mine. Hrant and his family went to the same Orphanage school that I went to. They grew up becoming the best of friends; my father was the best man at Hrant and his sister’s wedding. I wouldn’t even be able right now, for he introduced my parents to one another and was also be a man at my parents’ wedding. Filled with so many different emotions, all I could think about was my parents and how upset they would be about the passing of their friend Hrant. We were all speechless. How could they kill him? He lived for Armenian music and art, for the world and this world to want a music to demand to make a difference. My dance teacher believed that we had to do something to show gratitude toward the man who did everything for Armenians; the “Dance of the Doves”, how we, Armenians, show that gratitude. My dance group, A&A, the Akta/Dance Ensemble, an Armenian dance group. I have been a member of the dance group since I was 9-15 years old when my mother enrolled my two older sisters and me. My parents tell me that I started dancing in a group that I started walking, which isn’t really hard to believe. I actually think I might dance better than I walk, because my friends always complain about my inability to walk in a straight line or walk without bumping into one of them. Not to say I love to dance. I love to dance to just about any type of music, but I believe my specialty is Armenian dancing, which can be described as a mixture of folklore and contemporary. My dance troupe has performed in states all over the country, from California to New York, from the New York City, New York and Boston areas. We are a group of about 60 girls ranging between the ages of 12-22. My dancers and I consider each other family and sisters. After Hrant’s death, we thought the least we could do was create a dance dedicated to him. When my dance teacher began talking about it with us, I knew I had to try my hard- est to learn every move in order to be able to dance. Let’s see if the teacher chose me and four of the older girls to perform. It is called the “Dance of the Doves,” because Hrant wrote in his last column in Agos that the year 2006 was his hardest year, and he feared that 2007 would be even worse, he was right. His last point was education.

“Wash your hands!”

... continued from page 8

always fresh and has a unique taste to every bite. This small but friendly atmosphere is typical and offers traditional food and very affordable all around.

SEGOVIA

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MINADO

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Despite these setbacks, the iPhone does have many great features. It is slim, light and has an integrated 8GB iPod, but you will need a headphone adapter to plug in. Its visual flow of images as its menu and also recognizes screen tiles (i.e., portrait to landscape) in order to adapt to changes in aspect ratio for things like wide screen videos play-back. It runs a mini version of Mac’s OS X operating system which is primarily based on the use of widgets as applications. This feature has been well received by many industry reviewers like Engadget and IGN.

The phone is completely touch enabled; even the keyboard is displayed on screen. It also comes equipped with the exclusive feature “visual voicemail,” another nifty creation by Apple that allows users to view and listen to voicemails in the same fashion they would e-mail. Users can even fast-forward and rewind messages. The phone also supports Bluetooth for use with devices such as wireless headsets.

There are now other options on the playing field for consumers who either don’t want an iPhone or are already subscribers on another network. Many companies have seen the success of the iPhone and are now preparing phones that look similar and have similar capabilities. Nokia intends to mimic the iPhone while adding “Nokia’s own touch” to make their own version almost the same, but better, implying they have no issues following Apple’s lead. Samsung also has an iPhone-esque cell phone in the works, which is still not set for release.

LG is working on the PRADA phone for release in Europe only. It has just released the LG Voyager, which is only available through Verizon Wireless. The Voyager supports 3G connections and V-Cast, Verizon’s own 3G network of pay-to-download content. The LG Voyager also has a similar interface to the iPhone. It also folds open to reveal an inside that looks much like Verizon’s LG Env3, including internal speakers for multimedia and best of all, a QWERTY keyboard for consumers who prefer tactile response. It supports up to 8GB of music through the assistance of SD cards and can be obtained at Verizon Wireless Retail stores for $349, yet is available online for the discounted rate of $299.

For Sprint users, HTC has introduced the HTC Touch with “Touch–Flo” Technology, which permits use of a stylus or fingers. The HTC Touch is smart phone that runs Windows mobile and is geared toward business professionals who use Windows mobile for their jobs. T-Mobile has a similar line of phones made by HTC which are branded under T-Mobile. Prices vary but average around the $350 range. The iPhone is not the only phone of its kind. Compare your phone options because you may find your heart, and your hands, falling in love with another device.

Caribbean Week

The two gangs met on a march, they would pull out the machetes they had hidden inside the long bamboo poles and attack viciously, which solved none of the violence problems. With that noticed the government outlawed the bamboo bands as well. Stripped of all traditional rhythmic instruments, the Timis turned and utilized any objects they could find, including garbage can lids, old car parts, and empty oil barrels, being very resourceful as to what could be used to fill their void. Impromptu these instruments were used to form the Iron Bands, which marched down the streets playing the same distinctive rhythms as before.

Trinidadian Samantha Nivet commented that the “steel bands today are huge around carnival time; we all pounce along the road or “clap” to the rhythm of the beats being played.”

The good news is that the musical competitions quickly replaced the street fights on the islands. Panorama competitions were what these contests were found to be called. Each band contains more or less over 100 musicians and 500 pans, and rehearses relentlessly for months before Carnival in the hopes of winning the Panorama title and being crowned champion steel band of the year.

The particular band who performed explained that the art takes a while, it usually depends on the person and the type of steel drum the individual is playing, and on average, the drum usually takes 5 years to master. “The Island Boys Steel group” can usually be found performing at wedding receptions, cocktail hours and holiday parties. In any event their style of sound is desired, they will be more than happy to attend and contribute their talent.

Celebrating Caribbean week with talks, food, games and music, who can ask for more, the organizers knew just what was needed. With that said we want to thank Kristen Baldwin for her efforts in taking charge in these events and to all the staff who value heritage and culture.
A new face led Bergen Community College’s Lady Bulldogs volleyball team to victory this year. Her name is Lissette Lombana and she has an enduring passion for volleyball that showed last month in the team’s victory-winning Region XIX Division III Championship Tournament.

What a first season for Lombana, who besides having a championship season, also named the region’s Coach of the Year. The Lady Bulldogs this year ranked 10th in the country in volleyball.

For the latest news on the Men’s Basketball team, or to game schedules, updates, “Visit http://bergen.edu/page/028.asp

SPORTS

Who Let the Dogs Out? Coach Sean Kelly
BCC Men’s Basketball Looks Forward to a New Season

By Elisa Cervone

This year there is a new face around the men’s locker room. His name is Sean Kelly. Bergen Community College’s new Head Basketball Coach. This is his second year coaching at Bergen, but his first year in charge of the Bulldogs Basketball team.

Coach Kelly previously coached at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, New York, where he was an assistant coach for nine years, leading his team in the NCAA Division II.

Kelly attended the University of Scranton and Columbia University, where he received a degree in Social Studies and Journalism.

BCC’s Harold Blyden Jumps His Way to NJCAA Gold

By Nicole Januari

Harold Blyden was awarded 1st team all American at the Nationals which took place in Maryland this year during May. He qualified for the National Junior College Athletic Association, the NJCAA events with his amazing triple jump performance of 14.53m as his record.

This year Bergen Community College landed many recruits from high schools in the area, expanding the Bulldogs and making them an even tougher team to beat. Guard Chris Crecy, recruited from Hackensack High School, has sparked the team this season with his amazing ball handling skills.

In addition, Aaron Darrell, Jamar Mason, and John Houston are bringing heat on the court.

Another addition to the Bulldogs is forward Jordan Lee. At 6’7”, this is his first year back on the courts since his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury.

“The only thing I did was relax,” Lombana said. “I kept myself focused and determined towards the end of the season to win the Region and Conference.”

The championship continues a winning tradition for the Lady Bulldogs, which has won the same title for four consecutive years. All tournament honors were earned by Lady Bulldog’s victorious team!!

Blyden proudly holds up his medal.

Blyden drives him to know that eliminating all other obligations and distractions to devote himself entirely will bring him to victory.

For the latest news on the Men’s Basketball team, or to game schedules, updates, “Visit http://bergen.edu/page/028.asp

INTELLIGENCE, IT’S THE ULTIMATE APHRODISIAC.

Blyden has the Olympics on his mind already, planning to transfer to a four year college down in the South after finishing at Bergen and pursuing his dreams of being an Olympian. He continually drives himself to know that eliminating all other obligations and distractions to devote himself entirely will bring him to victory.

BCC's Harold Blyden jumping on his way to NJCAA Gold.
Torch Sports Top 10: Most Memorable World Series Moments

By Daniel LaFaso

Sports Editor

All sports fans love to watch the World Series, and for basektball fans, it’s time for the 23rd games to none series to start. As baseball’s off-season commences, and the World Series celebrity in New England continues, the top list for this issue lists the Top 10 most memorable World Series moments! So, without further ado, here goes:

1. 1960 World Series: The Giants entered the 1960 World Series against the heavy favorite Cincinnati Reds. The Dodgers took the first three games in New York, but were down 2–1 in Game 4 in Cincinnati. In the middle of the 7th inning, Mays hit a three-run home run to give the Pirates the most of the game at 9. Ralph Terry was as dominant a closer as any since Goose Gossage. Terry has been quoted as saying, “I’m not sure what pitch it was, I just remember being in the right place.”

2. 1992 World Series: The 1992 World Series was won by the Cincinnati Reds over the Minnesota Twins. The Twins took the first game at home, and the Reds won the second game in Cincinnati. The Twins then won the third game in Minnesota, and the Reds went on to win the series with a 4–0 victory in Game 6.

3. 1969 World Series: The 1969 World Series was won by the New York Yankees over the Baltimore Orioles. The Orioles took the first game at home, and the Yankees won the second game in Baltimore. The Orioles then won the third game in Baltimore, and the Yankees went on to win the series with a 5–1 victory in Game 6.

4. 1977 World Series: The 1977 World Series was won by the Baltimore Orioles over the Minnesota Twins. The Twins took the first game at home, and the Orioles won the second game in Baltimore. The Twins then won the third game in Minnesota, and the Orioles went on to win the series with a 3–2 victory in Game 7.

5. 1986 World Series: The 1986 World Series was won by the Boston Red Sox over the New York Yankees. The Yankees took the first game at home, and the Red Sox won the second game in Boston. The Yankees then won the third game in New York, and the Red Sox went on to win the series with a 4–2 victory in Game 7.

6. 1981 World Series: The 1981 World Series was won by the Los Angeles Dodgers over the Boston Red Sox. The Red Sox took the first game at home, and the Dodgers won the second game in Boston. The Red Sox then won the third game in Boston, and the Dodgers went on to win the series with a 6–3 victory in Game 7.

7. 1945 World Series: The 1945 World Series was won by the St. Louis Cardinals over the Chicago Cubs. The Cubs took the first game at home, and the Cardinals won the second game in Chicago. The Cubs then won the third game in Chicago, and the Cardinals went on to win the series with a 1–0 victory in Game 7.

8. 1996 World Series: The 1996 World Series was won by the Atlanta Braves over the New York Yankees. The Yankees took the first game at home, and the Braves won the second game in New York. The Yankees then won the third game in New York, and the Braves went on to win the series with a 3–2 victory in Game 7.

9. 1987 World Series: The 1987 World Series was won by the St. Louis Cardinals over the Boston Red Sox. The Red Sox took the first game at home, and the Cardinals won the second game in Boston. The Red Sox then won the third game in Boston, and the Cardinals went on to win the series with a 4–0 victory in Game 7.

10. 1990 World Series: The 1990 World Series was won by the Cincinnati Reds over the Oakland A’s. The A’s took the first game at home, and the Reds won the second game in Cincinnati. The A’s then won the third game in Cincinnati, and the Reds went on to win the series with a 5–3 victory in Game 7.

The World Series is always a special time of year for baseball fans, and these moments will always be remembered as some of the greatest moments in the history of the fall classic.

BCC Sports Schedule Winter 07-08

2007-08 MEN’S BASKETBALL

Tues. Dec. 4 *Middlesex CC A 7:00
Sat. Dec. 8 *Atlantic Cape CC H 3:00
Thurs. Dec. 13 *Passaic Co. CC A 7:30
Sat. Dec. 15 *Ocean CC A 3:00
Tues. Dec. 18 *Sussex Co. CC H 4:30
Tues. Dec. 22 *Gloucester CC A 3:00
Sat. Jan. 5 *Cumberland CC H 3:00
Tues. Jan. 8 *Romulus CC A 7:00
Sat. Jan. 12 *Camden CC A 1:00
Tues. Jan. 15 *CC of Morris H 7:00
Tues. Jan. 17 *Atlantic Cape CC A 7:00
Sat. Jan. 19 *Brookdale CC A 1:00
Tues. Jan. 22 *Middlesex CC H 7:00
Tues. Jan. 29 *Cumberland CC A 7:00
Tues. Feb. 12 *Union Co. CC A 6:00
Sat. Feb. 16 *Cumberland CC A 1:00
Tues. Feb. 19 *Cumberland CC A 7:00
Sat. Feb. 23 Reg. XX-Div. III (1st round) A
Mon. Feb. 25 Reg. XX-Div. III (1st round) A
Wed. Feb. 27 Reg. XX-Div. III (2nd round) A
Fri. Feb. 29 Reg. XX-Div. III Semifinals A

2007-08 WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Tues. Dec. 11 *Middlesex CC A 5:00
Sat. Dec. 14 *Atlantic Cape CC H 5:30
Sat. Dec. 15 *Ocean CC A 1:00
Sat. Dec. 18 *Ocean Co. CC H 5:00
Thurs. Dec. 20 *Burlington CC H 5:00
Sat. Dec. 22 *Gloucester CC A 1:00
Sat. Jan. 5 *Cumberland CC A 1:00
Sun. Jan. 13 *Uster Co. CC A 1:00
Sat. Jan. 19 *Brookdale CC A 3:00
Sat. Jan. 26 *Sussex Co. CC A 1:00
Sat. Feb. 2 *Ocean Co. CC A 1:00
Sat. Feb. 5 *Sussex Co. CC A 1:00
Thurs. Feb. 7 Northampton CC H 7:00
Sat. Feb. 9 *Gloucester CC H 1:00
Sat. Feb. 16 *Sussex Co. CC A 3:00
Tues. Feb. 26 Reg. XX-Div. III (1st round) A
Thurs. Feb. 28 Reg. XX-Div. III Semifinals A

2007-08 WRESTLING

Sun. Jan. 6 Nassau CC (at CC of Morris) A 10:00
Wed. Jan. 16 *Middlesex CC H 6:00
Tues. Jan. 22 Williamson Trade School Inc. w/ Stevens Coll. of Tech. A 7:00
Wed. Jan. 30 *Gloucester CC A 6:00
Sat. Feb. 2 Northampton CC Inst. A 8:00
Wed. Feb. 6 *Romulus CC A 7:00
Sat. Feb. 9 District Championship (at Gloucester CC) H 7:00
Thurs. Feb. 21 NJCAA Nationals A
Fri. Feb. 22 NJCAA Nationals A
Sat. Feb. 23 NJCAA Nationals A

Scholarship Money Available for Fall 2008/Spring 2009

The BCC Foundation has close to $200,000 in scholarship aid to dispense for Fall 2008/Spring 2009 enrollment, and is now accepting applications. Applications are available at the Financial Aid Office (L123), the Office of V.P. of Student Services, or you can download the form of the application from the BCC website under the “Foundation” quick link. The deadline for submitting applications is December 21, 2007. You do not have to be on financial aid to apply. Qualifying recipients will be notified early in April, 2008.

Applications can be dropped off at the Office of V.P. of Student Services or the Financial Aid office.